

HOUSE BILL 1130

By Hardaway

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 19;  
Title 20; Title 21 and Title 36, relative to false  
allegations of sexual abuse in furtherance of  
litigation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 36, Chapter 4, Part 1, is amended by  
adding the following as a new section:

§ 36-4-134. Whenever a trial court finds that any person knowingly made a false  
accusation of sexual abuse in furtherance of litigation, the court shall hold the accuser to  
be in criminal contempt of court and shall order the accuser to pay all litigation  
expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, incurred by the wrongly accused party in  
order to defend against the false allegation.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 36, Chapter 5, Part 1, is amended by  
adding the following as a new section:

§ 36-5-122. Whenever a trial court finds that any person knowingly made a false  
accusation of sexual abuse in furtherance of litigation, the court shall hold the accuser to  
be in criminal contempt of court and shall order the accuser to pay all litigation  
expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, incurred by the wrongly accused party in  
order to defend against the false allegation.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 36, Chapter 6, Part 1, is amended by  
adding the following as a new section:

§ 36-6-114. Whenever a trial court finds that any person knowingly made a false  
accusation of sexual abuse in furtherance of litigation, the court shall hold the accuser to  
be in criminal contempt of court and shall order the accuser to pay all litigation

expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, incurred by the wrongly accused party in order to defend against the false allegation.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009, the public welfare requiring it.